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CALIFORNIA TAX SERVICE CENTER: VIRTUAL ONE-STOP SHOP FOR TAXPAYERS

Three Tax Agencies Join to Create Streamlined Help Site

With two weeks left in California's tax filing season, three state agencies have come together to recreate one website to meet all tax filing needs. State officials today unveiled the newly refreshed California Tax Service Center at www.taxes.ca.gov, which integrates information from the Board of Equalization (BOE), the Employment Development Department (EDD), and the Franchise Tax Board (FTB), allowing the user to easily browse resources and quickly find important information, forms and publications.

"It's now easier to file your taxes in California," said John Chiang, Chair of the State Board of Equalization. "By allowing quick access to important information, forms, and publications, this website spares taxpayers much of the frustration and confusion that's part of the process."

The EDD collects payroll taxes, the FTB collects income and franchise tax, and the BOE is responsible for collecting California sales and use tax along with a variety of special taxes and fees. The BOE is also responsible for overseeing property tax assessment across the state.

The website's tab format allows users to quickly gain access to all tax information in a one-stop tax service center. Users may navigate from income to sales, or property to payroll tax, without leaving the website or contacting individual agencies. It also features a home page calendar with filing deadlines and educational seminars for those seeking expert advice on California tax law. Links to information on the individual tax agency websites can be accessed seamlessly from the site.

"I am pleased to see California's separate taxing agencies working together to improve online services and provide the state's taxpayers with better, more convenient access to information about California taxes," said Clark Kelso, California's Chief Information Officer. "When government agencies work collaboratively to improve services to the public, everyone wins."

Other BOE Members include Betty T. Yee of San Francisco, Acting Member, First District; Bill Leonard of Sacramento/Ontario, Second District; Claude Parrish of Long Beach, Third District; and State Controller Steve Westly, who also chairs the Franchise Tax Board.